

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 152300

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ORIGIN NEA-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 ADP-00 /012 R

66651

DRAFTED BY: NEA/INS:EMATIN

APPROVED BY:NEA/INS:LBLAINGEN

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NEA/PAB:DMCOCHRAN

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R 022058Z AUG 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO RUSBAE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 7638

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T STATE 152300

FOL TEL SENT ACTION PRIORITY STATE FROM KABUL 31 JUL 73

REPEATED TO YOU FOR INFO

QTE S E C R E T KABUL 5685

FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, AF

SUBJECT: ORIGINS OF THE COUP - DAUD'S POSITION VISA-VIS

CENTRAL COMMITTEE

1. ALTHOUGH INFORMATION STILL FRAGMENTARY AND DIFFICULT TO
ASSESS, CERTAIN DATA FROM SOURCES WHICH WE HAVE FOUND
KNOWLEDGEABLE AND USEFUL PRESENT FOLLOWING PICTURE AS MOST LIKELY:

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A) THE OFFICERS WHO FINALLY ENGINEERED COUP HAD PLANNED

IT TO TAKE PLACE IN SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER WHEN KING NORMALLY WENT TO EUROPE. PLOT WAS DISCOVERED BY OR REPORTED TO ABDUL WALI WHO INFORMED KING JUST PRIOR TO LATTER'S DEPARTURE. KING DISMISSED REPORT AS SOMETHING HE "HAD HEARD TEN TIMES ALREADY" BUT LATER TOOK PRECAUTION OF SENDING ABDUL WALI BACK TO KABUL TO KEEP EYE ON SITUATION (IN WHICH HE FAILED).

B) MEANWHILE OFFICERS REALIZED PLOT DISCOVERED AND APPROACHED DAUD SAYING IT WAS NOW OR NEVER. DAUD FIRST HESITATED, THEN TOOK LEAD.

2. WHILE WE CANNOT VOUCH FOR ACCURACY OF ABOVE IT WOULD EXPLAIN:

A) WHY WELL-PLANNED AND EXECUTED COUP HAS BEEN FOLLOWED BY APPARENT VACUUM POLITICAL FOLLOW UP;

B) WHY DAUD'S BROTHER NORMALLY PRIVY TO DAUD'S THOUGHTS REPORTEDLY SWORE ON KORAN TO EX-QUEEN HE HAD KNOWN NOTHING OF COUP (AND NAIM'S SON WAS DRIVING AROUND COUP NIGHT AND GOT INTO DIFFICULTIES);

C) WHY THERE IS EVIDENCE OF DIFFERENCES BETWEEN OFFICERS WHO APPARENTLY CARRIED OUT COUP AND DAUD (AS WELL AS AMONG OFFICERS THEMSELVES);

D) WHY DAUD SEEMS TO HAVE A GREATER POSITION OF PERSONAL STRENGTH THAN ONE MIGHT ASSUME IF OFFICERS HAD MERELY WANTED FIGUREHEAD (WHICH WE JUDGE CONTRARY TO DAUD'S CHARACTER);

E) UNCONFIRMED REPORTS THAT DECISION EVACUATE ROYAL FAMILY (OTHER THAN ABDUL AND SHAH WALI) WAS DAUD'S ALONE, TAKEN WITHOUT CONSULTATION CENTRAL COMMITTEE IN WHICH THERE WAS SOME OPPOSITION; AND

F) REPORT THAT LYBIAN DELEGATION (SEPTTEL) WANTED TO MEET WITH CENTRAL COMMITTEE BUT ALLOWED TO SEE DAUD ONLY. (IF TRUE, NOT KNOWN WHETHER THIS OPPOSED IN CENTRAL COMMITTEE.)

3. PRELIMINARY AND CURRENT IMPRESSION IS DAUD'S POSITION
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GRADUALLY STRENGTHENING VIS-A-VIS CENTRAL COMMITTEE. WHEN REQUESTS FOR ACTION ARE PASSED TO PRESIDENT, DECISION COMES BACK TOO FAST TO HAVE BEEN SUBJECT OF COMMITTEE ACTION. STILL WE CANNOT AS YET BE SURE AND ANNOUNCEMENT NEW GOVERNMENT, INFORMALLY PROMISED FOR THIS WEEK, SHOULD GIVE US FURTHER CLUES.
NEUMAN
UNQTE ROGERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE152300
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: NEA/INS:EMATIN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS BLAINGEN, L
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730861/aaaabsyo.tel
Line Count: 114
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12-Dec-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <26 FEB 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ORIGINS OF THE COUP - DAUD'S POSITION VISA-VIS CENTRAL COMMITTEE
TAGS: PINT, AF
To: MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005